(a) whether it is fact that diesel worth of crores of rupees is being stolen from the 1443 km. Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline of the Indian Oil Corporaton;

(b) whether there is a thieving racket involving a well oiled network of smugglers operating between Kandla port and Radhapur off the Pakistan border and they are hand in glove with the local Police and some Indian Oil Corporation officials; and

(c) whether Government proposes to have a computerized detection system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There have been 17 incidents of pilferage and total loss of diesel due to pilferage is estimated at Rs. 3.982 crores. The matter of pilferage incidents have been taken up promptly with the Government of Gujarat by IOC. Government has also taken up the matter with Government of Gujarat. Preliminary inquiry has not revealed involvement of any officer of Indian Oil Corporation. However, inquiry has been instituted by IOC to examine whether any IOC official is involved.

(c) Computerized detection system has been planned to detect leakage.

Exploration works of Petroleum and Natural Gas in N.E. States

2739. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are neglecting the exploration works of the petroleum and natural gas in the North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the exploration work will be started in the area of Manipur and other hilly region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) ONGC & OIL are continuing the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the entire North Eastern Region including Manipur and other hilly region. ONGC has already carried out about 2781 LKM (Semi Detailed Mapping equivalent) of geological mapping and gravity magnetic surveys in Manipur state.

Further, in order to accelerate pace of exploration, the Government has been offering exploration accreages in different parts of India including Manipur and other Hilly region of the North East under the Exploration Bidding rounds for private participation. Fourth round onwards, of the several blocks offered in N.E. region, one block viz. AA-ON-1 measuring 25200 sq. km. covering most of the areas of Manipur was offered under VI, VII & VIII rounds. Several other blocks also extended to parts of Manipur.

विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस कनेक्शनों का आवंटन

2740. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक द्वारा अपने विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस के कितने कनेक्शन आवंटित किए गए थे, उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(क) पिछली सरकार के कार्यकाल के दौरान मंत्रियों एंव अधिकारियों द्वारा अपने विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस के कितने कनेक्शन आवंटित किए गए थे, उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ख) वर्तमान सरकार ने अपने कार्यकाल के प्रथम छह महीनों के दौरान इस कोटे से कितने कनेक्शन जारी किए हैं और उसमें मंत्रियों द्वारा कनेक्शनो की प्रदेश-वार संख्या क्या है तथा अधिकारियों द्वारा संस्तुत कनेक्शनों की प्रदेश-वार संख्या क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) : (क) वर्ष, 1996 तथा वर्ष, 1997 के दौरान मंत्रालय द्वारा बिना बारी आधार पर जारी किए गए एलपीजी कनेक्शनों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है:-